

Amendments to the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 1 (Original). Method for the generation of chondrons comprising
2 the step of:
3 cultivation of cells at unphysiologically high extra cellular
4 concentrations of magnesium (Mg), characterized in that at least once the
5 unphysiologically high extra cellular Mg concentration is increased during
6 cell cultivation.

1 2 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 magnesium is a solution of magnesium sulphate or magnesium chloride.

1 3 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of~~
2 ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein said extra cellular concentrations of said
3 magnesium solution range from about 12 mMol to about 65 mMol.

1 4 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~
2 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cultivation of the cells is further
3 affected in the presence of foetal calf serum (FCS) or mammalian serum.

1 5 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~
2 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cultivation of the cells is further
3 affected in the presence of at least one growth factor and/or cytokine
4 and/or hormone.

1 6 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~
2 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein chondrocytes isolated from tissue of a
3 mammal are cultivated.

1 7 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~
2 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein chondrocytes differentiated from
3 chondrocyte precursor cells and/or from mesenchymal stem cells and/or
4 embryonic stem cells and/or adult stem cells are cultivated.

1 8 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 6 or 7,
2 wherein the chondrocytes are of mammal origin.

1 9 (Original). The method according to claim 8, wherein the
2 chondrocytes are of human origin.

1 10 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~
2 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cells, preferably chondrocytes, are
3 seeded into tissue culture flasks and are cultivated in monolayer culture
4 with medium supplemented with FCS and concentration of magnesium is
5 initially in the range of 11 to 25 mMol.

1 11 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~
2 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein when increasing the Mg concentration
3 the cells are embedded in alginate and cultured in medium supplemented
4 with serum from said mammal, the concentration of magnesium is
5 increased to a range of 21 to 65 mMol.

1 12 (Original). The method according to claim 11 wherein the
2 cultivation is effected under an oxygen partial pressure of 8 %.

1 13 (Currently Amended). A method for the preparation of
2 cartilaginous tissue comprising the method for the generation of chondrons
3 comprising the step of cultivation of cells at unphysiologically high extra
4 cellular concentrations of magnesium (Mg), characterized in that at least

5 once the unphysiologically high extra cellular Mg concentration is
6 increased during cell cultivation according to any one of claims 1 to 12.

1 14 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~
2 ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein cultivation is performed in vitro.

1 15 (Currently Amended). Use of the chondrons obtained according
2 to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12 and 14~~ method for the generation of
3 chondrons comprising the step of cultivation of cells at unphysiologically
4 high extra cellular concentrations of magnesium (Mg), characterized in
5 that at least once the unphysiologically high extra cellular Mg
6 concentration is increased during cell cultivation, for the preparation of
7 cartilaginous tissue.

1 16 (Currently Amended). Cartilaginous tissue obtained according to a
2 method of claim 13 ~~or 14~~.